

## **APPENDIX 2**

Targeted survey about graduate student socio-ecological experiences and attitudes in the LTER Network

### **SURVEY INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to our survey about graduate student experiences with socio-ecological research in the LTER network. It will only take a few minutes of your time to complete. Your answers are very important and will contribute to a research study that a group of LTER graduate students has organized as follow-up to a 2009 ASM working group on this topic. Please note that your responses will be kept confidential. Your name or other personal information will not be publicly linked to your survey responses. Should you have any questions about this survey or our work, please contact us.

### **SECTION 1: YOUR SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT(S)**

In this first section of the survey, we are going to ask you a few questions about the socio-ecological research project(s) you are involved with in the LTER network.(Section 1 of 4)

Q1 Are you conducting, have you ever conducted, or are you planning to conduct socio-ecological research?

- I am currently conducting socio-ecological research (1)
- I am planning to conduct socio-ecological research (2)
- I have previously conducted socio-ecological research (3)
- I am not involved in socio-ecological research (4)

Q2 What is your socio-ecological research project for?

- My Master's thesis (1)
- My PhD dissertation (2)
- My own side project (3)
- My advisor's project (4)
- Other (5): \_\_\_\_\_

Q3 Please briefly describe your primary socio-ecological research project (a couple sentences, or copy an abstract).

### **SECTION 2: PROJECT BACKGROUND**

We are now going to ask you to provide a few more details about your socio-ecological research project. (Section 2 of 4)

Q4 My research takes place at:

- One LTER site (1)
- Multiple LTER sites (2)
- LTER site(s) and ULTRA site(s) (3)
- LTER site(s) and NEON site(s) (4)
- LTER site(s) and National Park Service site(s) (5)
- LTER site(s) and field sites or stations affiliated with another organization (e.g. US Forest Service, a University, please specify) (6) \_\_\_\_\_

- LTER site(s) and other sites (please specify) (7) \_\_\_\_\_

Q5 Is your research collaborative? Collaborative research is where you are actively working with other colleagues as part of a larger research team to answer a research question.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)

Q6 Is your research interdisciplinary? Interdisciplinary research synthesizes the theories and methods of multiple academic disciplines (e.g. anthropology and biology) to answer a research question.

- Yes (1)
- No (3)
- Not sure (2)

Q7 What academic discipline(s) do you most closely identify with?

**SECTION 3: DEFINING SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND ITS CHALLENGES**

In this next section, we will ask you some general questions about socio-ecological research. (Section 3 of 4)

Q8 In your own words, how would you define socio-ecological research?

Q9 Do you think there is an agreed-upon definition of socio-ecological research among LTER researchers?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)

Q10 How would you rate the following challenges associated with socio-ecological research?

	Not problematic (1)	Somewhat problematic (2)	Highly problematic (3)
Funding (1)			
Institutional support (2)			
Advisor support (3)			
Peer support (4)			
Theoretical issues (5)			
Methodological issues (6)			
Finding collaborators (7)			
Bridging disciplines			

(8)			
Time (9)			

#### SECTION 4: DEMOGRAPHICS

In the next set of questions, we are going to ask you some questions about yourself. (Section 4 of 4)

Q11 I am currently a:

- Masters student (professional program) (1)
- Masters student (thesis-based program) (2)
- PhD student (3)
- Post-doctoral researcher (4)
- Other (please specify): (5) \_\_\_\_\_

If respondent answers “Masters student (professional program)” or “Masters student (thesis-based)” to question 11, then ask:

Q11A What year are you in your Master's program?

- First year (1)
- Second year (2)
- Third year (3)
- Fourth year (4)
- Other (5) \_\_\_\_\_

If respondent answers “PhD Student” to question 11, then ask:

Q11B What year are you in your Ph.D program?

- First year (1)
- Second year (2)
- Third year (3)
- Fourth year (4)
- Fifth year (5)
- Sixth year (6)
- Seventh year (7)
- Other (8) \_\_\_\_\_

If respondent answers “Post-doctoral researcher” to question 11, then ask:

Q11C: How many years ago did you receive your PhD?

- One year (1)
- Two years (2)
- Three years (3)
- Four years (4)
- Five years (5)
- More than five years (6)

Q12 What is your age?

- Under 18 (1)
- 18-22 (2)
- 23-27 (3)
- 28-32 (4)
- 33-37 (5)
- 38-42 (6)
- 43-47 (7)
- 48-54 (8)
- Over 55 (9)

Q13 What is your gender?

Q14 Are you affiliated with the Long Term Ecological Research Network (LTER)?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)

Q15 Are you listed in the LTER directory? (Search at <http://search.lternet.edu/dir.php>)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

If respondent answers “Yes” to question 15, then ask:

Q15A How long have you been a member of the LTER Network?

- 1 year (1)
- 2 years (2)
- 3 years (3)
- 4 years (4)
- 5 years (5)
- 6 years (6)
- More than 6 years (7)

Q16 What LTER site(s) are you affiliated with?

Q17 Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up interview about your experiences with socio-ecological research within the LTER network?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

If respondent answers “No” to Q17, then skip to End of Survey

If respondent answers “Yes” to Q17, then ask:

Q17A Thanks for saying "yes"! Please provide your contact information below (name, e-mail address and phone number) so that we may get in touch with you. Please note that your contact information will be kept confidential at all times:

**SURVEY CLOSING:** You are now finished with the survey! Thank you for your time. Your answers are very valuable.